

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01

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R 032100Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9364

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4911

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: REFORMISTS NOMINATE BALAGUER FOR 1974-1978

1. AT A SPECIAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONVOKED ON DECEMBER 1, AND ATTENDED BY TOP PARTY LEADERS INCLUDING VICE PRESIDENT GOICO MORALES, THE REFORMIST PART (PR) FORMALLY PROCLAIMED PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT FOR THE TERM 1974-1978. RATIFICATION OF THE ASSEMBLY'S ACTION WILL REPORTEDLY BE MADE BY THE PARTY'S NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME EARLY NEXT YEAR.

2. THE DECEMBER 1 PARTY ASSEMBLY ALSO MODIFIED THE REFORMIST PARTY STATUTES TO PERMIT THE PR'S CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD TO SELECT NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR SENATORS, DEPUTIES, NATIONAL DISTRICT MAYOR, AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS FOR SUBMISSION TO AND APPROVAL BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION. ANOTHER MODIFICATION FURTHER PERMITS THE PRESIDENT TO SELECT HIS OWN VICE PRESIDENTIAL RUNNING MATE.

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER BECOMES THE FIRST CANDIDATE TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE MAY 1974 ELECTIONS AS THE PR NATIONAL CONVENTION IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO RUBBER-STAMP HIS NOMINATION. THE TIMING OF THE PR ACTION, HOWEVER, IS DOUBLY CURIOUS. THE CAMPAIGN ITSELF DOES NOT OFFICIALLY OPEN UNTIL JANUARY 2 AND, IN THE PAST, BALAGUER USUALLY HAS WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO ANNOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY.

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IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHY THE PARTY IS ACTING AT SUCH AN EARLY

DATE, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE AN EFFORT TO CAPITALIZE ON THE CURRENT
DISARRAY AND CONFUSION PREVAILING IN OPPOSITION CIRCLES.

4. THE MODIFICATIONS OF THE PR STATUTES HAVE MERELY FORMALIZED THE
DE FACTO SITUATION WHEREBY THE PRESIDENT HAS HAD EFFECTIVE CONTROL
OVER THE SELECTION OF VIRTUALLY ALL PARTY CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIVE
POSITION.

HURWITCH

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